



Milwaukee County

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

For Immediate Release April 22, 2010
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

COUNTY BOARD APPROVES RESOLUTION ON WAUKESHA WATER

Supervisors respond to taxpayers concerned about local waterways

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors this morning approved a resolution authored by Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., relating to the possible plan to supply water to several Waukesha County communities through the City of Waukesha Water Utility. The amended resolution opposes current or future plans to sell Lake Michigan water to Waukesha, including planning for return of such water, without proper input from Milwaukee County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). Under SEWRPC's final Regional Water Study, pipelines would carry water discharged from wastewater treatment plants to streams tributary to Lake Michigan, possibly including Underwood Creek and the Root River watercourses throughout Milwaukee County.

“It's essential that any water used be returned to Lake Michigan, but I am absolutely opposed to using Milwaukee County creeks as the return flow mechanism,” Supervisor Weishan said. “The burden should be on Waukesha to work with Milwaukee County to develop the proper infrastructure necessary to return water back to Lake Michigan.”

The County Board approved the resolution on a commanding 14-3 vote. Supervisor Weishan is concerned that Sending return water through creeks in Milwaukee County could exacerbate the high water flows that many of these tributaries already experience during heavy rains and could damage the stream riverbed ecology and structures located near the tributaries. The adopted resolution opposes the alternatives that include discharge of wastewater treatment plant effluent into streams tributary to Lake Michigan.

“Even more important, the County Board needs to have input on this plan on behalf of our constituents. Milwaukee County owns the land that could be negatively affected by water flows of questionable quality,” Supervisor Weishan added. “I have heard from a number of residents who don't want water discharged from treatment plants flowing through their neighborhoods along Underwood Creek and the Root River.”

###